
JANUARY 29, 1829.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, to which the subject had been referred, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Concerning the importation of slaves into the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful
4 to import or bring into the District of Columbia any slave
5 or slaves, whether held to service for life or for a term of
6 years: but such slave or slaves, upon such importation or
7 bringing into this District, shall thereupon cease to be slaves,
8 and shall be free upon leaving the District within ten days
9 thereafter; and the freedom given by this act shall not be
10 deemed a mere penalty upon the person so importing or
11 bringing in any slave, but shall be the right and privilege,
12 and for the benefit of the person so imported or brought in;
13 and this section shall, in regard to the right of such persons,
14 be construed to be a remedial law: *Provided, That nothing*
15 herein contained shall be construed to extend to persons re-

16 moving to this District for the purpose of becoming citizens
 17 thereof, and who shall, within twenty days, subscribe the fol-
 18 lowing oath, before some Justice of the Peace within said
 19 District, to be filed in the office of the Clerk of the county
 20 in which he or she may reside: I, *A. B.*, do swear that my
 21 removal into the District of Columbia was with no intent of
 22 evading the laws for preventing the further importation of
 23 slaves for sale, nor have I brought with me any slaves with an
 24 intention of selling them, contrary to that act. So help me
 25 God. Nor to any person, citizen of the said District, claim-
 26 ing slaves by descent, marriage, or devise; nor to persons so-
 27 journing in said District, who may bring in and carry out
 28 with them their domestic servants: *And provided also*, That
 29 citizens of the said District, holding lands in Virginia and
 30 Maryland, and citizens of Virginia and Maryland, holding
 31 lands in the District of Columbia, may, from time to time,
 32 remove their slaves, worked on their said lands in said States,
 33 into the District aforesaid, or from said District into the
 34 States aforesaid, as the case may be, for their own use and
 35 convenience, and not for sale or hire.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all sales of
 2 slaves made in said District by the authority of law, or by ad-
 3 ministrators or trustees, it shall and may be lawful, when
 4 such slaves, so to be sold, consist of a family or families, to
 5 sell them by families: and it shall not be lawful, by any such

6 sale, to dispose separately of husband and wife, or of a mo-
7 ther and her children under ten years of age.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be law-
2 ful for any tavern-keeper, or other person, in the said District,
3 to keep, confine, or imprison, or cause to be kept, confined, or
4 imprisoned, in his or her house, or building of any kind, or
5 in any ship or vessel, longer than twenty-four hours, any slave
6 purchased in, or to be carried through, the said District, by
7 any dealer in slaves, until the name, age, sex, last place of re-
8 sidence, and former owner, if any, of such slaves, shall have
9 been reported in writing to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of
10 the county in which they were purchased or brought, and a
11 certificate of such report, under the seal of the court, shall
12 have been obtained ; which certificate shall be delivered to
13 the person in whose house such slaves shall be confined, and
14 shall, by him or her, be shown to any public officer desiring
15 to see the same. And, if any tavern-keeper, or other person,
16 in said District, shall keep, confine, or imprison, or cause to
17 be kept, confined, or imprisoned, in his or her house, or build-
18 ing of any kind, or in any ship, or vessel, any such slave, with-
19 out having first obtained such certificate or report, as afore-
20 said, he or she shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars for every such
21 slave so kept, confined, or imprisoned; one half to the in-
22 former, and the other to the United States. And if the owner
23 or occupier of the house, building, or vessel, in which such

24 slave may be so kept, confined, or imprisoned, shall refuse,
 25 while such slave shall be so kept, confined, or imprisoned, to
 26 show the certificate aforesaid to any officer, on demand, such
 27 person so refusing shall forfeit and pay twenty dollars for
 28 each slave so kept, confined, or imprisoned ; one half thereof
 29 to the United States, the other to the informer : *Provided,*
 30 That this act shall not extend to persons moving with their
 31 families, and passing through the said District.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That, for every cer-
 2 tificate granted by the Clerk, he shall be entitled to demand
 3 and receive twelve and one half cents for each slave so re-
 4 ported ; and, in case of a false report, the party so offending
 5 shall, in every instance, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dol-
 6 lars : and the penalties hereby imposed shall be sued for
 7 and recovered in the Circuit Courts for the counties of
 8 Alexandria and Washington, in the same manner as other
 9 penalties.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not
 2 hereafter be lawful for any free negro or mulatto, known as
 3 such by the laws of Virginia and Maryland, other than those
 4 who now are, or may be, by the laws of the District of Co-
 5 lumbia, emancipated, and such persons attending visitors in
 6 the character of servants, to reside within said District ; and
 7 all such persons who shall come into said District for the
 8 purpose of taking up their residence, in violation of this act,

9 shall be considered and treated as vagrants ; and, after three
10 days' notice given by a public officer to leave the District, if
11 found therein, shall be taken up and carried before a magis-
12 trate, who shall cause him or her to be subjected to stripes,
13 not exceeding thirty-nine at any one time, and to hard labor
14 for a period not less than one, nor more than three months,
15 which may be repeated as often as the case occurs.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall
2 commence and be in force from and after the